

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A perpendicular magnetic recording medium comprising at least

a nonmagnetic under layer,

a magnetic layer, and

a protective layer

stacked on a nonmagnetic substrate, wherein

said magnetic layer includes a ferromagnetic crystal grain and a nonmagnetic grain boundary region; and

said crystal grain boundary region comprises at least two kinds of oxide selected from those of Y oxides, W oxides, Mg oxides, Al oxides, Zr oxides, Hf oxides, Ti oxides, Ce oxides, Si oxides, Cr oxides, Ni oxides, and Ta oxides, and

said magnetic layer includes a total of 0.1 to 30 mol% of the oxides which form said crystal grain boundary region.

2. (canceled).

3. (currently amended): The perpendicular magnetic recording medium according to claim 12, wherein said oxides which form said crystal grain boundary region comprises:

at least one oxide selected from group A of Y oxides, W oxides, Mg oxides, Al oxides, Zr oxides, and Hf oxides; and

at least one oxide selected from group B of Ti oxides, Ce oxides, Si oxides, Cr oxides, Ni oxides, and Ta oxides.

4. (original): The perpendicular magnetic recording medium according to claim 3, wherein the oxide selected from said group A includes at least one oxide selected from Y oxides and W oxides.

5. (original): The perpendicular magnetic recording medium according to claim 3, wherein the oxide selected from said group B includes at least one oxide selected from Si oxides, Cr oxides, and Ta oxides.

6. (original): The perpendicular magnetic recording medium according to claim 3, wherein the content of the oxide selected from the group A in mole percentage is smaller than the content of the oxide selected from the group B in mole percentage in the oxides which form said crystal grain boundary region.

7. (original): The perpendicular magnetic recording medium according to claim 3, wherein oxygen concentration of the oxide selected from the group B is smaller than ratio of concentration calculated from the stoichiometric ratio in the oxides which form said crystal grain boundary region.

8. (original): The perpendicular magnetic recording medium according to claim 1, wherein oxygen concentration to all oxidizable elements in the crystal grain boundary region is

smaller than the concentration of that calculated from the sum of the stoichiometric ratio of all oxides.

9. (canceled).

10. (original): The perpendicular magnetic recording medium according to claim 1, wherein the magnetic layer includes a total of 1 to 20 mol% of the oxides which form said crystal grain boundary region.

11. (original): The perpendicular magnetic recording medium according to claim 1, wherein a crystal grain included in said magnetic layer comprises CoPt alloy as a major component.

12. (original): The perpendicular magnetic recording medium according to claim 1, wherein said nonmagnetic under layer comprises Ru as a major component.

13. (original): The perpendicular magnetic recording medium according to claim 1, which has at least one soft magnetic layer between said nonmagnetic substrate and said nonmagnetic under layer.

14. (original): A magnetic recording/reproducing apparatus comprising;
the perpendicular magnetic recording medium according to claim 1,
a supporting and rotating driving mechanism of the perpendicular magnetic recording medium,

a magnetic head having a device for recording information on said perpendicular magnetic recording medium and a device for reproducing the recorded information, and
a carriage-assembly in which said magnetic head is supported freely movable relative to said perpendicular magnetic recording medium.

15. (original): A magnetic recording/reproducing apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said read/write head is a single magnetic pole recording head.